

# The Mercury

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# Cambria

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Class of 2018

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# Cambria

**Author Bio**

Brynn Hambley is a junior Theater Arts major with minors in Music and Writing. Theater was her first love, but writing is not too far behind, and she specifically enjoys writing poetry and personal essays. She would like to thank her family, friends, her amazing boyfriend Jared, and Poetry Circle for reading all her bad first drafts and dealing with her anxiety and tea-fueled ramblings.

## Cambria

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My family's blood is rooted in coal,  
our fingers permanently blackened with ash  
and the sounds of shots and bombs that shake  
our sassafras legs, our electric, machine hearts.

I have never been the kind to drown myself in liquid fires,  
burning a way to my soul through my throat,  
so I watch my aunts take another swig,  
watch them learn to breathe again  
their laughter sharp as shrapnel.

They never learn the songs I sing  
the ones that quiet the ringing world.  
So when I part my lips, tongue to teeth  
like two hands in prayer,  
my grandfather stops their screeching games;  
he clears the air for notes of new things,  
his eyes reflecting the metal of submerged gunships  
and wars I have only felt in words.